

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 03687 250919Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IGA-01 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 /064 W

----- 061551

R 250741 MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1334

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3687

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: PUBLIC RELEASE OF FMS/MAP DETAILS ON ARAB COUNTRIES,
IRAN AND ISRAEL

REF: STATE 108266

1. WE HAVE NOT RAISED THE QUESTION OF PUBLIC RELEASE
OF FMS DETAILS WITH THE SAG. WE ARE QUITE SURE THAT THE
REACTION WOULD BE NEGATIVE. THE SAUDIS ARE SENSITIVE
ABOUT SECURITY MATTERS, ESPECIALLY AS RELATES TO THE
QUANTITATIVE ASPECTS OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND ORDNANCE
STOCKS. BECAUSE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SAUDI
ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED THROUGH FMS OVER
RECENT YEARS, THE SAG WOULD PROBABLY MAKE A CASE THAT
FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE FMS PROGRAM WOULD COM-
PROMISE ARMED FORCES SECURITY.

2. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUESTION OF SETTING
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 03687 250919Z

A PRECEDENT. THE CHIEF OF THE US MILITARY TRAINING MISSION HERE HAS POINTED OUT THAT THIS COULD BE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IN REGARD TO A POSSIBLE FUTURE COOPERATIVE SAUDI-US PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO THE YARG. IN THIS INSTANCE NEITHER THE SAG NOR THE YARG WOULD BE LIKELY TO WANT FULL DISCLOSURE OF THE DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM.

3. IF A DECISION IS MADE TO MAKE FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, WE WOULD WANT AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN IN ADVANCE. IN DOING SO WE WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND THE ARABS WERE NOT BEING SINGLED OUT, BUT THAT THE DISCLOSURES WERE BEING MADE ALSO IN THE CASES OF ISRAEL AND IRAN. THE FACT THAT ISRAEL AND THE ARABS WOULD BE GETTING THE SAME TREATMENT WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS MOLLIFYING THE SAG.

4. THE MIGHT BE SO INTERESTED IN KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT THE ISRAELIS AND IRANIANS HAVE BEEN GETTING FROM US THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER THE COMPROMISE OF THEIR OWN DEFENSE INFORMATION AND ACCEPTABLE TRADE OFF. THIS COULD ALSO BECOME TROUBLING FOR US IN THAT THE SAG MIGHT SUBSEQUENTLY REQUEST LETTERS OF OFFER ON ITEMS THEY WERE NOT AWARE WERE BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND CONFRONT US THEN WITH A SITUATION IN WHICH WE MIGHT BE OBLIGED TO TURN DOWN SAUDI REQUESTS WHICH WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN MADE.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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